

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 EURE-00 /066 W

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P R 181429Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9228

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BU, RO

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV REAPPEARS IN MEDIA

REF: A) SOFIA 286; B) SOFIA 0774 MAY 74

1. ZHIVKOV RESURFACED IN TV NEWS EVENING FEB 17 AND IN MORNING PRESS FEB 18. COVERAGE BEGINS WITH ACTIVITIES 17TH WITH NO REFERENCE TO HIATUS FROM EVENING FRIDAY 14 THROUGH SUNDAY 16.

2. TALKS WITH CEAUSESCU ARE MENTIONED ONLY FOR 17TH WHEN ACCORDING TO PRESS TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED MUTUAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AS WELL AS EXCHANGED OPINIONS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, "ESPECIALLY" CSCE AND GOOD-NEIGHBOR RELATIONS IN BALKANS. THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY VISITED STORES AND FACTORIES THAT MORNING BEFORE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CEAUSESCU, FOLLOWING WHICH ZHIVKOV

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DEPARTED ROMANIA.

3. ZHIVKOV APPARENTLY PROCEEDED TO YAMBOL WHERE HE ADDRESSED NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WORKERS IN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, THEN LATER RETURNED TO SOFIA WHERE PRESS REPORTS HE WAS GREETED BY LEADING POLITBURO FIGURES. HOWEVER, TELEVISION NEWS EVENING 17TH STILL DID NOT REPORT THAT THE VISIT TO ROMANIA HAD ENDED.

4. NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION EXISTS FOR STRANGE COVERAGE OF VISIT. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR HIATUS IN COVERAGE IS THAT ZHIVKOV WAS ON "FRIENDLY" RATHER THAN "OFFICIAL" VISIT AND SIMPLY RELAXED, BUT THAT HARDLY EXPLAINS COMPLETE NEWS BLACKOUT. MORE LIKELY IS THAT ZHIVKOV AND CEAUSESCU HOLED UP SOMEWHERE FOR PROLONGED PRIVATE DISCUSSION, POSSIBLE ABOUT SOME SENSITIVE SUBJECT SUCH AS EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE OR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH USSR IN LIGHT OF IMPENDING CEMA PRICE CHANGES. NOTEWORTHY THAT PRESS REVEALS NOTHING ABOUT BULGARIAN OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING ZHIVKOV (ALTHOUGH LISTS OF ROMANIANS GREETING, ESCORTING, AND SEEING HIM OFF DO APPEAR). WHEN CEAUSESCU WAS ON VISIT TO BULGARIA LAST MAY (REF B) THERE WAS ALSO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COVERING-UP OF FACT THAT TALKS AT HUNTING LODGE WERE VIRTUALLY WITHOUT OTHER PARTICIPANTS. LAST MAY HOWEVER THERE WAS NOT SO MUCH MYSTERY ABOUT MEETING.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
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**To:** STATE BUCHAREST  
**Type:** TE  
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